

[54] RESTAURANT OR RETAIL VENDING FACILITY

[76] Inventor: Gary O. Sandstedt, 3837 Harrison Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64109

[*] Notice: The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Nov. 15, 2000 has been disclaimed.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[52] U.S. Cl. 186/39; 235/383; 340/365 S; 364/401

[58] Field of Search 186/38-41, 186/45-50, 53, 55, 56; 221/2, 5, 7; 235/91 L, 383, 385; 340/365 S; 364/401

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Primary Examiner—F. J. Bartuska

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Brady, O'Boyle & Gates

[57] ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a vending system particularly adapted for a restaurant or retail sales outlet which includes a hand held portable data entry terminal having an operator addressable, programmable memory containing a repertoire or library of sales or menu items addressable by entering a product code. The hand held terminal upon receiving an operator entered order entry, relays the order to an order filling station as well as to a local and remote data processor over a pollable wireless bi-directional communications link. An alpha-numeric print out of an order inputted to the hand held terminal and other transactional information is provided by the terminal as well as the local data processor. The programmable memory is adapted to be reprogrammed from a programmer either directly or remotely through the bi-directional communications link. Each terminal also includes wireless transceiver apparatus for bi-directional communications, e.g. paging, with a plurality of customer order stations containing like customer operated transceiver apparatus.

9 Claims, 13 Drawing Figures

